



ARVADA FIRE

PROTECTION DISTRICT

Arvada Fire Protection District

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Arvada Fire Protection District

7903 Allison Way • Arvada, CO 80005

303-424-3012

www.arvadafire.com

District Board Election

Arvada Fire will hold an election on **Tuesday, May 8 from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.** at two polling locations:

APEX Center
13150 W. 72nd Ave.

APEX Community Center
6842 Wadsworth Blvd.

District residents registered to vote in the State of Colorado who wish to vote by mail must complete an Application for Absentee Ballot. The application is available through May 1 at www.arvadafire.com, by email at election@arvadafire.com, or by calling **303-424-3015**. Applications may also be completed in person at 7903 Allison Way. The office is open 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., and 1 – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. All applications must be received by 5 p.m. on May 4. Mailed ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on May 8 in order to be counted.

Candidate information is also available on www.arvadafire.com. ■

National EMS Week

This year we will celebrate the 44th annual National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) week from May 20 – 26.

In 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS week to celebrate EMS practitioners and the important work that they do in their communities. The National Association of EMTs and the American College of Emergency Physicians partner together to lead EMS week activities, ensuring that the important contributions of EMS practitioners in safeguarding the health, safety, and wellbeing of their communities are fully celebrated and recognized.

Every year Arvada Fire hosts a cook-out for all Arvada Fire staff. EMS staff grills food at Station Six while crews rotate through for a warm lunch. The event takes place throughout the week to allow for the participation of each shift. We are happy to be able to take the time to recognize the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day life-saving services of medicine's "front line." We are looking forward to another celebration of our hard working EMTs and Paramedics this year! ■

Letter from the Chief

BY CHIEF JON GREER

The Arvada Fire Protection District family includes two very special four-legged members. Doug and Molly live at our stations and are among the AFPD’s best-behaved employees! Always in a good mood, they are excited anytime someone comes to visit.

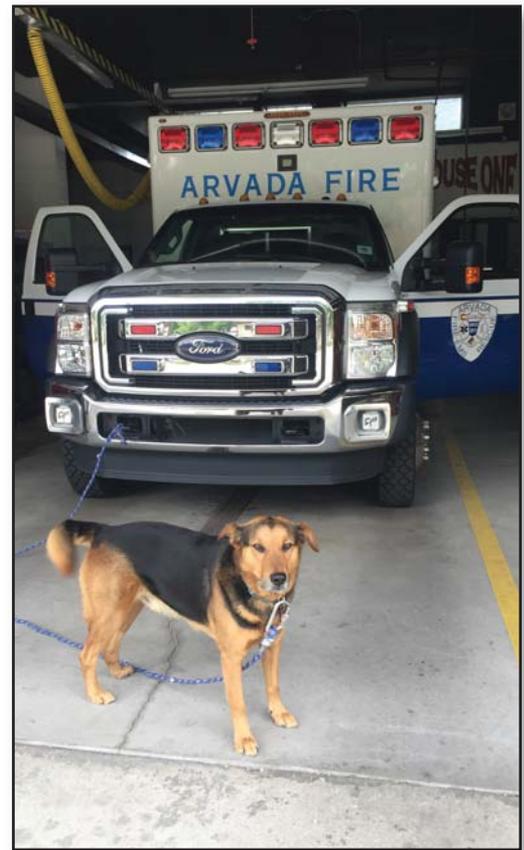
In 2011, Fire Station Two at Ridge Road and Oak St. rescued Molly. She was our first live-in dog. Molly was quickly certified as a Canine Good Citizen (www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/canine-good-citizen), and began her regular visits in the community, at schools and senior living communities. She has numerous monthly scheduled visits which include spending time with citizens of all ages. She regularly goes to a local elementary school where she serves as a reading companion, and also a memory care unit to be a companion to older adult residents. She loves taking rides on the fire truck. Most of the time, however, you will find her on her leather couch at the station! Molly is a big fan of food and treats but she gets her exercise in too! A neighbor of Station Two takes her on daily walks.

Jen Cannon, who oversees Molly’s work at West Woods Elementary School, commented on how Molly helps out her classroom. “Molly spends one-on-one time with kids who read to her. Molly offers kids the opportunity to practice their oral reading fluency in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Kids love cuddling up with her and reading her stories. They are willing to read for longer time frames and try books and words that might otherwise feel out of their abili-

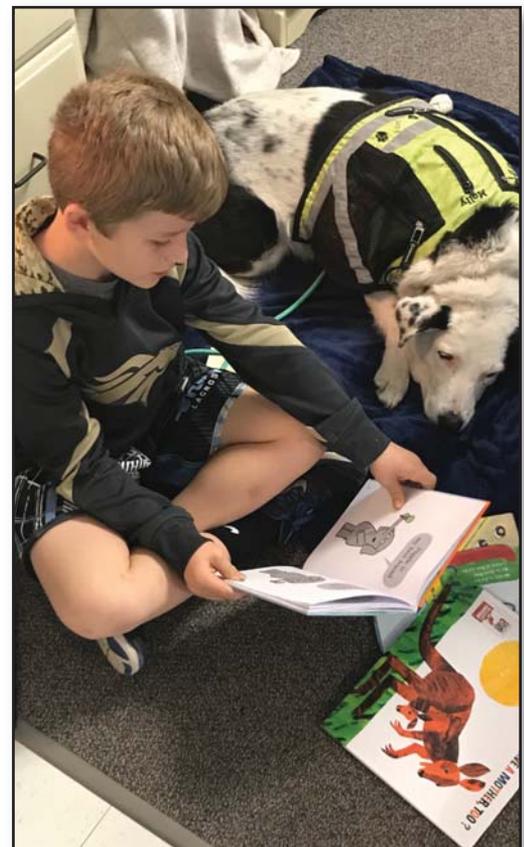
ty. Her being in my room makes reading fun and everyone wants to do it! Molly also brings smiles to the face of everyone in the building. Word quickly gets around when Molly is at West Woods and we get frequent visits from staff members. Wednesdays are also mileage club days during recess (kids are encouraged to run laps for exercise). Molly participates in this activity as well and gets a crowd of kids following close behind. We love Molly and all she does!!!”

Then there’s Doug. A resident near Station One in Olde Town (W. 57th Ave. and Zephyr St.) found Doug wandering the streets and brought him to the firehouse. The firefighters posted his picture on social media, called Arvada Animal Management, and Foothills Animal Shelter. Doug’s picture was all over the place. As time passed, the members of Station One fell more in love with him. After no one claimed him, Doug officially became part of the Station One family. They held a vote to name him. I thought they would go with something like Ralston or Wadsworth but they named him Doug after a character in a Pixar movie. Doug is estimated to be four or five years old. He has a girlfriend named Molly (different dog) that lives across the street from the Station and they hang out daily. Doug even got her some gifts for Valentine’s Day! He mopes around the Station when he does not get to see her. (We hope she won’t dump him and break his heart.)

Stop by and visit Doug and Molly, or follow them on their Facebook page: [@mollyfireshog](https://www.facebook.com/mollyfireshog). ■



Doug, at Station One.



Molly in reading class at West Woods Elementary School.

Employee of the Year



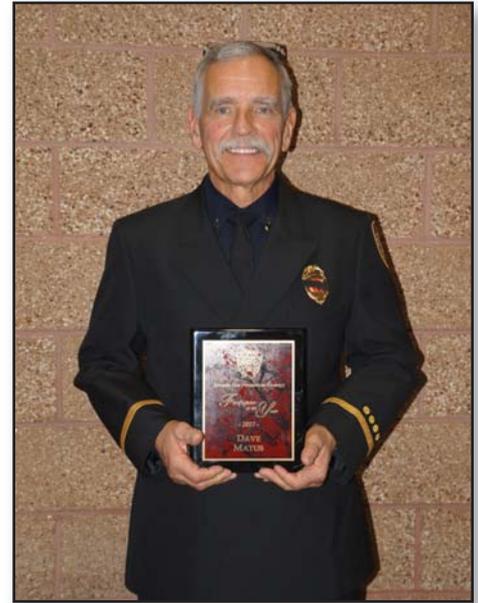
Congratulations to this year's Employee of the Year: Jennifer Enochs. Over her time with Arvada Fire, Jennifer has proven to be invaluable to the organization. Jennifer started working for the District in 2002 and is retiring this June. She helped form Friends of Arvada Fire (a 501c3), serving on its board and participating in fundraising events since its inception. She is also the liaison to the retired District members, organizing their meetings and their annual dinner. As an Assistant to the Chief, she has played many roles that are often unseen, such as developing administrative processes, providing daily feedback and support, and dealing with unexpected issues throughout the workday. In addition, she has managed monthly board meeting minutes, compliance issues, the annual awards ceremony, and the District elections since 2004. Jennifer will be missed as she heads into retirement this summer! ■

Firefighter of the Year

This year's Firefighter of the Year is Lieutenant Dave Matus. Lt. Matus brought a personal vision for a community risk-reduction project, collecting durable medical equipment no longer being used and re-distributing it to individuals in need. This equipment loan program is aptly called "Dave's Closet."

Lt. Matus took on a great deal of the effort and dedication to make Dave's Closet work, relying little on others to keep the program running. He spends countless hours of personal time taking requests for equipment, cleaning and sanitizing equipment, and finally distributing it to those in need. In 2017, 124 people were helped with 212 pieces of loaned equipment. Sometimes the equipment is "loaned" on a permanent basis.

The volume of equipment donated to stock Dave's Closet has at times been overwhelming. True to his vision of making sure the equipment is utilized, Lt. Matus forwards some of it to other service agencies including



Project Cure and Paralyzed Vets of America. Lt. Matus' vision of filling a need in the community, and the re-use of equipment that likely would otherwise be discarded, is inspirational. The positive impact of his efforts exceeds measurement by any statistical method. Congratulations Lt. Matus and thank you for your dedication to supporting our community! ■

The **Annual Firefighter Car Fest** will be August 5 at Stenger Fields!



Go to www.fafpd.org for more information.

Traffic Fatalities on the Rise

DISTRACTED DRIVING A MAJOR CAUSE



drop the distraction

Recent data from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) indicates that traffic fatalities have risen 29% from 2014 (488) to 2017 (630).

In 2017, the 630 fatalities break down as follows:

- Alcohol/Drug related: 232
- Construction zone: 15
- Motorcyclist: 101
- No seat belt: 211
- Pedestrian: 93

Many of these fatalities could be prevented.

Wear Your Seat Belt

Despite the Colorado seat belt law, 16% of Coloradans don't buckle up, putting Colorado as 36th in the country for seat belt use.

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), 58 lives in Colorado could be saved annually with 100% seat belt use among passenger vehicle occupants.

Wear a Helmet

According to NHTSA, 25 lives in Colorado could be saved annually with 100% helmet use among motorcyclists.

Don't Drive Distracted!

Distracted drivers are involved in an average of 40 crashes each day in Colorado. In 2017, Governor Hickenlooper signed into law a bill that increases the first distracted driving offense from a \$50

fine and one point to a \$300 fine and four points. Colorado drivers are allowed no more than 12 violation points on their license in a single year, making the increased penalties that much more significant of a deterrent to distracted driving.

CDOT reported last year that 22% of surveyed Coloradans admit to having read a message recently while driving, 64% selected entertainment on their mobile device, and 33% talked on a hand-held phone.

Your chances of being in a crash are 1 in 33. Don't worsen your odds: buckle up, drive sober, avoid distractions, and stay off your phone! ■



2018
Arvada Fire Department
Youth Fire Academy

June 26, 27, 28
 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Arvada Fire Training Center
 6651 Indiana St.

Registration opens 4/1/2018
 To register visit www.arvadafire.com
 Or call 303-424-3012

Space is limited - participants must be 11-14 years old - \$10 registration fee required to reserve spot

ARVADA FIRE
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